

Camp Middlebrook 2 July 1777

My dear friend

I received your two favours of the 19th & 24th ultimo of Captains Morton. I am ready to believe your anxiety must have been great, but it must have been relieved in a great measure before you can receive this. I have another of your two letters containing a particular account of General Howe's manoeuvres, from the 14th to the 29, both of which I hope you have received. On Sunday the 30th he took all his troops over to Staten Island, and ^{evacuated} gave ~~up~~ one of the most fertile Provinces in America, except York Island and part of Long Island he is now in the same situation as ~~last~~ Year. All the splendor of conquest and parade of triumph vanished, like a passing cloud. Deluded and wicked Britain to endeavor to obtain by the hand of blood and violence the produce of the hard earned industry of a people by whom you were much beloved.

My heart bleeds at the sight of the poor defenceless people who lived on the waste of their last excursions. Cows, horses, sheep &c. &c. & nothing & Furniture entirely swept away - many houses burnt

and the remainder must inflict my dear Mary
whatever the ravages of malice could effect has been done.
our illustrious General has done every thing in his
power to supply them for the present by sending them
Provisions. I would be as unjust to pretend to see
to him. It is but justice to the humanity of B. G. to
say that the house in Sheffield where he quartered
was preserved from plunder and devastation by his caution.
Much as much could be said of the other General officers
who were there.

Since they have been on Staten Island
they have been busied in embarking some of their
troops and baggage, but with what design is altogether
not known at present.

The Communication Hudsons River is an object of so
great magnitude that we suppose their future operations
will be there, to endeavor to form a junction with Genl
Burgoyne who ^{for} now here has approached Schoharie

— The events of war are uncertain, but I entertain very
sanguine hopes if this be his intention that we shall
ruin his army.

~~It is the~~ and it must most
undoubtedly be his object to come west of New England,
which latter I am not inclined to believe, and yet the
troops on Rhode Island, is a puzzling circumstance.

I am well convinced that Rhode Island has no
comparative or real value ^{itself} sufficient to justify
them to keep a large body of troops there especially at present
when he must want them with his main army.

will develop this matter

This day Galt's Rifles & Vassant's Brigades moved
for Pakiskill, and tomorrow the whole army will
be put in motion that way, and in the mean-
time endeavor to gain some positive intelligence of
the designs of the enemy.

Our army are pretty numerous, and in
high spirits and well able to cope with an equal
number of Britons, tho' we have no intention of putting
it upon that issue.

I am my dear Harry Yours
Most affectionate King

Letter from my
Friend H. K.
July 2. 1777

Forward by Capt. Manton

Colonel Manton
Jackson

Boston